LIS518

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PATHFINDER: Iconic Architecture

This pathfinder was constructed to aid in the research of topics related to the subject of iconic architecture. It is meant to serve the architecture and/or urban planning student at either the undergraduate (upper level) or graduate levels of study. This pathfinder will aid in the identification and exploration of notable works of iconic architecture and the architects that design them. Some of the areas of research this pathfinder explores in relation to iconic architecture include: placemaking, municipal identity, public service, capitalist globalization, transnational capital class development, and sustainability.

**Reference Sources:**

### Encyclopedia of 20th Century Architecture

Sennott, R. S. (2004). *Encyclopedia of 20th century architecture*. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn.

A three volume set with over 700 illusrated articles from scholarly sources. This encyclopedia is a great place to begin the research process and also to refer during the process for clarification on a particular building, design, or style. Cross-referencing and bibliographies make this a helpful source when narrowing in on a topic.

**The Phaidon Atlas of Contemporary World Architecture**

Phaidon Press. (2004). *The Phaidon atlas of contemporary world architecture*. London: Phaidon Press.

An atlas of more than 1,000 of the world’s most notable works of contemporary architecture built since 1998. Geographically organized, this is a valuable source to consult when researching the architecture of specific cities. Color photographs and line drawings provide the graphic information while text regarding the buildings, regions, and architects provide a foundation of knowledge beyond a general overview.

**Websites:**

**Skyscraper Page** http://skyscraperpage.com

Leblanc,Dylan. (n.d.). *SkyscraperPage.com*.

Detailed statistical and comparative information is provided about skyscrapers and tall buildings around the world. The graphic representations provide context when comparing buildings and skylines. Browse by geographic location or search using building statistics or geographic location. Great source for a general overview of the status of building projects past and present in a particular city.

**Great Buildings Collections** http://www.greatbuildings.com

Matthews, K., & Artifice, Inc. (1997). *The great buildings collection*. Eugene, OR: Artifice, Inc.

Created by ArchitectureWeek electronic magazine, this site also offers access to the magazine. The site covers world architecture and architects with bibliographies and links making it a solid general and important cross-referencing source. The 3-D building models provide contextual spatial data that build on the photographic images, drawings, and text. Search by building, architect, or geographic location. Browse by type or style.

**The Pritzker Architecture Prize** http://www.pritzkerprize.com

Hyatt Foundation. (1995). *The Pritzker Architecture Prize*. Los Angeles, CA: Hyatt Foundation.

The Pritzker Prize celebrates the “art of architecture” and “its impact on human behavior”. Many of the recipients of this award are high-profile “starchitects” and creators of iconic architecture. Profiles, biographies, and links to their work are available on this site.

**Project for Public Spaces** http://placemaking.pps.org/

Project for Public Spaces. (2006). *Placemaking for communities: project for public spaces (PPS)*. New York, N.Y: Project for Public Spaces, inc.

A non-profit urban planning and design organization, PPS provides information regarding best-practices in design, “placemaking”, and the use of public spaces within communities. Use this site to access data regarding the usability of specific iconic public works. Valuable resource for access to discussions on current topics in “placemaking” with full length articles and blogs. Tour the “Hall of Shame”.

**Arch Daily** http://www.archdaily.com

*ArchDaily*. (2008).

ArchDaily published daily by Plataforma Networks provides current information regarding architectural projects, events, interviews, and competitions. The interactive map provides access to world “City Guides” which explore the architecture that defines a city. The library (AD Classics) contains a huge collection of classic and iconic architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries with photographic images and detailed text. Good resource for locating and defining the buildings that make up a city’s profile.

**Audio/Video:**

**Living Architectures:** A Series of Films by Ila Beka and Louise Lemoine

http://www.living-architectures.com/html/filmseries.html

Koolhaas, R., Acedo, G., Bêka, I., Lemoîne, L., & Bêka Films. (2008). *Koolhaas Houselife*. Rome: Beka Films.

A documentary film series that explores five works of iconic architecture by Pritzker Prize recipients including Rem Koolhaas’ House in Bordeaux, Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Bilbao in Bilbao, Richard Meier’s Jubilee Church in Rome, Herzog and de Mueron’s Pomerol winery, and Renzo Piano’s Centre Pompidou in Paris. Each of the five films looks at a different work of iconic architecture from the perspective of the caretakers of the buildings. These documentaries offer another angle from which to view these types of structures and provoke a new set of questions regarding iconic architecture, particularly that of post-occupancy, or the life that begins once a building is finished. The entire series of films has not yet been released, check the website for upcoming availability and to view the trailers.

**Reviews of Living Architectures: A Series of Films by Ila Beka and Louise Lemoine**

**Review: Koolhaas HouseLife; Gehry's Vertigo**

Sample, H. (2011). Review: Koolhaas HouseLife; Gehry's Vertigo*. Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 70(2), 244-246.

Reviewer Hilary Sample explores two themes critical to post-occupancy, cleaning and maintenance, in relation to House and Guggenheim Bilbao. She discusses the social, cultural, and economic differences between cleanliness and maintenance and how the films use these perceived differences as platforms on which to set the stage. Sample offers valuable insight into the problems created with iconic architecture and how using media to view it can provide a new perspective.

# Inhabiting a Piece of Art: It’s Not Always So Pretty

Ouroussoff, N. (2010, January 29). Inhabiting a piece of art: it’s not always so pretty. *The New York Times,* pp. C1.

Ouroussoff reviews four of the five films in the series, excluding “Inside Piano”. He presents a more general rather than analytical overview of the films. This review is useful for its summary of each film and for its evaluation style that places architecture in the context of a language used to provide communication between architect and inhabitor.

**Books:**

**The Iconic Building: The Power of Enigma**

Jencks, C. (2005). *The iconic building: The power of enigma*. London: Frances Lincoln.

Architecture critic, Charles Jencks explores iconic landmark architecture as a new “type” that has emerged in the last 15 years. The controversy surrounding this architecture is largely driven by the publicity that creates the desire for and the popularity of iconic buildings. Jencks looks at 10 recently built examples, focusing on the building’s successes and failures at meeting the requirements they were created to fulfill. Good source for gaining a deeper understanding of the nature of the controversies surrounding iconic architecture.

**The Edifice Complex: How the Rich and Powerful Shape the World**

Sudjic, D. (2005). *The edifice complex: How the rich and powerful shape the world*. New York: Penguin Press.

Deyan Sudjic is an architecture critic and the director of the Design Museum in London. This book analyzes architecture as an expression of authority made by the rich and powerful of the world. Sudjic provides a detailed review of some of the most influential figures of the 20th century and the architecture they commissioned. Good source for building a framework for understanding architecture as an expression of power and identity, integral aspects of iconic architecture.

**New Museums: Contemporary Museum Architecture Around the World**

Zeiger, M. (2005). *New museums: contemporary museum architecture around the world.* New York, NY: Universe.

Mimi Zeiger is a freelance journalist, editor, and educator. In her book, she declares the turn of the 21st century the unofficial age of the museum building. She asserts that Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Bilbao museum project was the beginning of a worldwide trend that saw cities commission star architects (starchitects) to design iconic museums in an effort to transform the city’s image. Thirty examples of recent museum architecture are explored through photographs, illustrations, and text. A good resource for the topical exploration of museum architecture and the trends that shape their design.

**Why Architecture Matters: Lessons From Chicago**

Kamin, B. (2001). *Why architecture matters: Lessons from Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Pulitzer Prize winning Chicago Tribune architecture critic Blair Kamin is a highly respected voice in the contemporary architecture arena. This book is a collection of his essays on a wide range of topics in contemporary architecture, many that deal directly with the city of Chicago. The book is divided into four sections: The Evolving Metropolis, The Art of Architecture, Architecture as a Social Art, and The Lakefront: Democratic Vistas. Revealing essay titles make it easy to use this book as a reference source to architectural critiques and Kamin’s fluid style makes it an enjoyable and informative read.

**Newspapers:**

**Bilbao, 10 Years Later**

Lee, D. (2007, September 23). Bilbao 10 years later. *The New York Times*, pp. 51.

Lee discusses the effect Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Bilbao museum has had on the city of Bilbao. His first visit to the museum was in 1997, shortly after it opened its doors to the public. With his second visit, 10 years later he interacts with the locals and observes the tourists in an effort to discover what effect owning a work of iconic architecture has on a city. Informative and eye-opening from the perspective of the inhabitants of Bilbao.

**Patrons flock to Central Library grand opening**

Ouchi, M. S. (2004, May 24). Patrons flock to central library grand opening. *The Seattle Times*, http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/news/local/library/stories/patronsflock.html

Opening day at Seattle’s new Central Library designed by Rem Koolhaas produces throngs of crowds and excitement. This article takes you inside the library and the initial reactions of patrons of the iconic space. This article also links to a page on the Seattle Times website “Getting to Know the New Central Library” that contains discussion boards, photo galleries, 3-D virtual tours, links to reviews, and links to the library’s website.

**Periodicals:**

**The Iconic Building is Here to Stay**

Jencks, C. (2006): The iconic building is here to stay. *City* 10(1), 3-20.

Architecture critic Charles Jencks refers to built iconic architecture as “enigmatic signifiers”. This article presents an argument for the staying power of iconic architecture that explores a cultural shift away from certain traditional forces (religion) and towards others (capitalist globalization). Jencks offers his own framework for best-practice in design that addresses how to “neutralise those embarrassing mistakes that come with any high‐risk venture.” Informative source on the author’s perceived origins of iconic architecture and his ideas on how to reorganize the design process to better serve the public.

**Iconic Architecture and Capitalist Globalization**

Sklair, L. (2006). Iconic architecture and capitalist globalization. *City* 10(1), 21-47.

Sklair examines iconic architecture and its relationship with capitalist globalization and capitalist corporations. He argues that the emergence of a transnational capitalist class has created an arena for iconic architecture. This is an interesting perspective that takes the focus off the symbolic and aesthetic aspects of architecture as the forces that drive the creation of iconic architecture and refocuses it on issues of class polarization and a global ruling class as the real forces that allow for the creation and promotion of iconic architecture.

**Five Energy Generations of Tall Buildings: An Historical Analysis of Energy Consumption in High-rise Buildings**

Oldfield, P., Trabucco, D., & Wood, A. (2009).Five energy generations of tall buildings: an historical analysis of energy consumption in high-rise buildings, *The Journal of Architecture*, 14(5). 591-613.

Technical article that analyzes the energy consumption of skyscrapers and the factors that affect that consumption. Some knowledge of environmental design is necessary in extracting the useful information from this article. The ways in whixh design changed in response to political developments local and global are of particular interest to the subject of iconic architecture which often uses innovative energy systems as a component of the overall design, giving the design an edge in competitions.

**New York Art Museums as Mirrors: Investment, Globalization, and Architecture**

Staniszewski, M. A. (2002). New York art museums as mirrors: investment, globalization, and architecture. Harvard Design Magazine, 17, 16-25.

Mary Anne Staniszewski calls museums mirrors of the culture they reside in and refers to their installations as ‘the power of display’. In this examination of new museum design as an investment made by global capitalists, Staniszewski points out the power of the museum to promote its creators’ ideas of art and culture which in turn has a profound effect on local and global culture. This perspective ties together a few of the other voices heard from in this pathfinder for a clearer picture of what the theoretical framework is behind the idea of capitalist globalization as the creator of iconic architecture.

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